Archie ADVENTURE SERIES

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SONIC™ THE HEDGEHOG

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

48977

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SPAZ/FUNDERS

END GAME

PART 4 OF 4

Turtlewing Productions

Kaifuu.Com

In the year **2235**, the ambitions of one being have affected the lives of **Sonic The Hedgehog**, his friends and all who dwell upon the planet **Mobius**.

Up until now, the battle had been fought by a code of honor adhered to by the many, despite the treachery of the one.

But that was then. This is now.

Having lost his beloved by means most foul and framed for her apparent murder, Sonic now finds himself fighting for the redemption against friend and foe alike, attempting to prove his innocence and ferret out the real villains in the process.

After surviving a crash landing on his way to the **Devil's Gulag**, a relentless pursuit by **Geoffrey St. John** and his crack troops, eventually making his way to **The Floating Island** with the assistance of the gentle dragon **Dulcy**, Sonic has come seeking the help of its guardian, **Knuckles The Echidna**.

Now, as the players assemble for the final act, they will all discover there is nothing more dangerous than **a hedgehog with a cause...**

JULIAN, SON OF IVO, PREPARE TO BE PUNISHED!

I'M AFRAID I BADLY MIS-CALCULATED!

ZAT

ZAT

THE SCHEME WAS PERFECT, BUT THE TIMING WAS--

OOOF!

SPA-LAASH

DID YOU GET HIM, LONDO?

I DON'T SEE HIM, JAKKAR!

HE MUST BE STILL RUNNING SOMEWHERE UP AHEAD!

YOU KNOW THE MINISTER WON'T TOLERATE FAILURE!

HE'LL WANT OUR HEADS IF WE CAN'T BRING BACK JULIAN'S THAT'S FOR CERTAIN!

THIS WAY!

BUB BUB BUB

WHAT DO YOU THINK, CHARLES?

VERY INTERESTING, JULES!

WE WON'T FIND OUT WHY IF WE LEAVE HIM THERE!

I'VE NEVER SEEN THE OVERLANDERS TURN ON ONE OF THEIR OWN!

THIS GOES AGAINST MY BETTER JUDGEMENT, CONSIDERING WHAT HIS KIND HAVE DONE!

WELL, WE'RE NOT HIS KIND!

BESIDES, HE MAY BE JUST WHAT WE NEED TO WIN THE WAR!

PUT THE PEDAL TO THE METAL, BROTHER!

WE HAVEN'T A MOMENT TO LOSE!

MAYBE SO--

"--BUT I CAN'T HELP HAVING A NASTY FEELING ABOUT OUR CARGO!"

--AS MY PEOPLE RELY MORE ON THEIR SIZE TO INTIMIDATE THEIR OPPONENTS, THEY'RE ACTUALLY QUITE VULNERABLE TO A DIRECT ATTACK--

--ESPECIALLY WHEN OUTNUMBERED!

SINCE YOU KNOW THEIR WEAKNESSES BEST--

"~IT SEEMS YOU'RE THE LOGICAL CHOICE TO LEAD THE TROOPS, WARLORD JULIAN!"

AT MY COMMAND--

THIS IS INSANE, JULES! HIM LEADING US!

I'M SURE KING ACORN HAS HIS REASONS, CHARLES!

--ATTACK!!

"FOR THE KINGDOM!"

CRUSH THEM ALL...

THE-MONITOR-READINGS-ARE-SHOWING-THE-DOCTOR-MORE-EXCITED-THAN-USUAL!

IT-MUST-BE-A-REALLY-GOOD DREAM!

UNFORTUNATELY--

--IT'S-TIME-TO AWAKEN-HIM. CARE-TO-DO-THE-HONORS?

The Big Goodbye

LISTEN UP, KNUX! I NEED YOUR HELP TO CLEAR MY NAME! I'M BEING FRAMED!

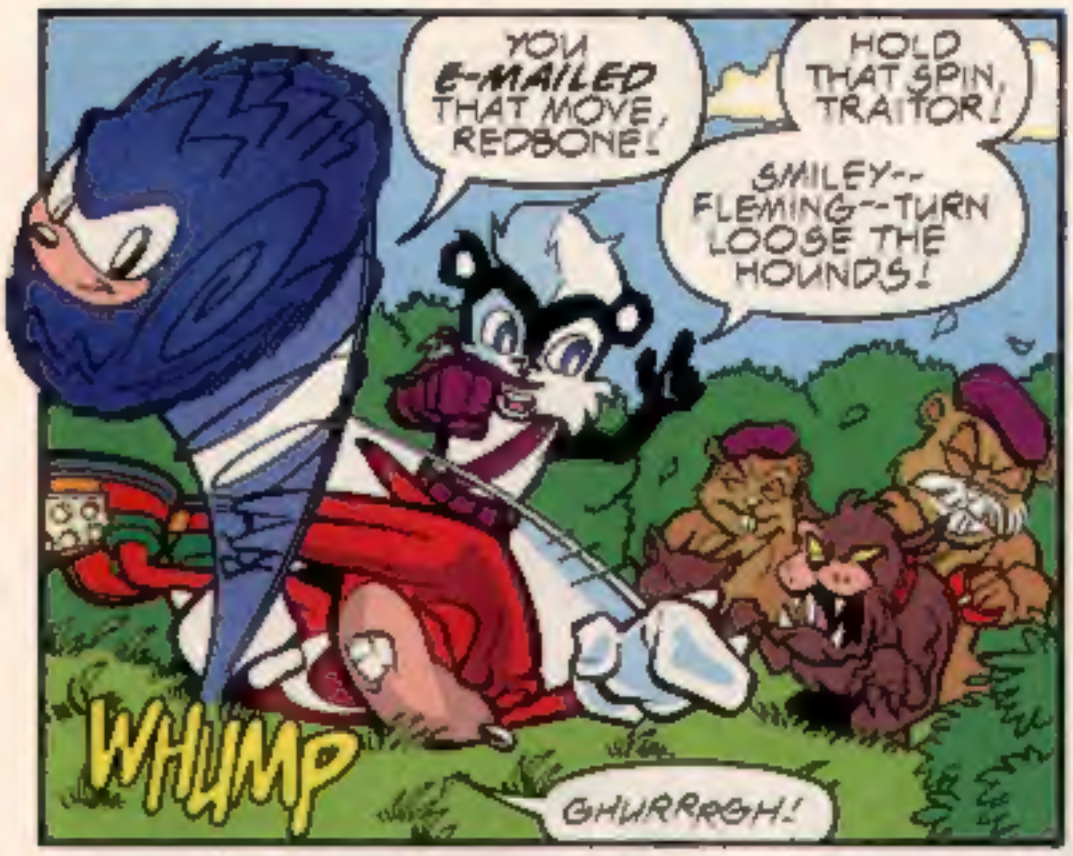
AS PERSONAL GUARD TO KING ACORN OF MOBIUS, I DEPUTIZE AND COMMAND YOU TO HELP ME BRING PRINCESS SALLY'S ASSASSIN TO JUSTICE!

WHAT?! PUH-PRINCESS SALLY-- DEAD?!

I TOLD HER YOU WERE NO GOOD-- ARRRR!

NO! YOU GOTTA BELIEVE ME... DON'T--

CAN'T GET A CLEAR SHOT AT THE HEDGEHOG...


YOU E-MAILED THAT MOVE, REDBONE!
HOLD THAT SPIN, TRAITOR!
SMILEY--FLEMING--TURN LOOSE THE HOUNDS!
WHUMP
GHURRGH!

NO CHANCE!
TWANG

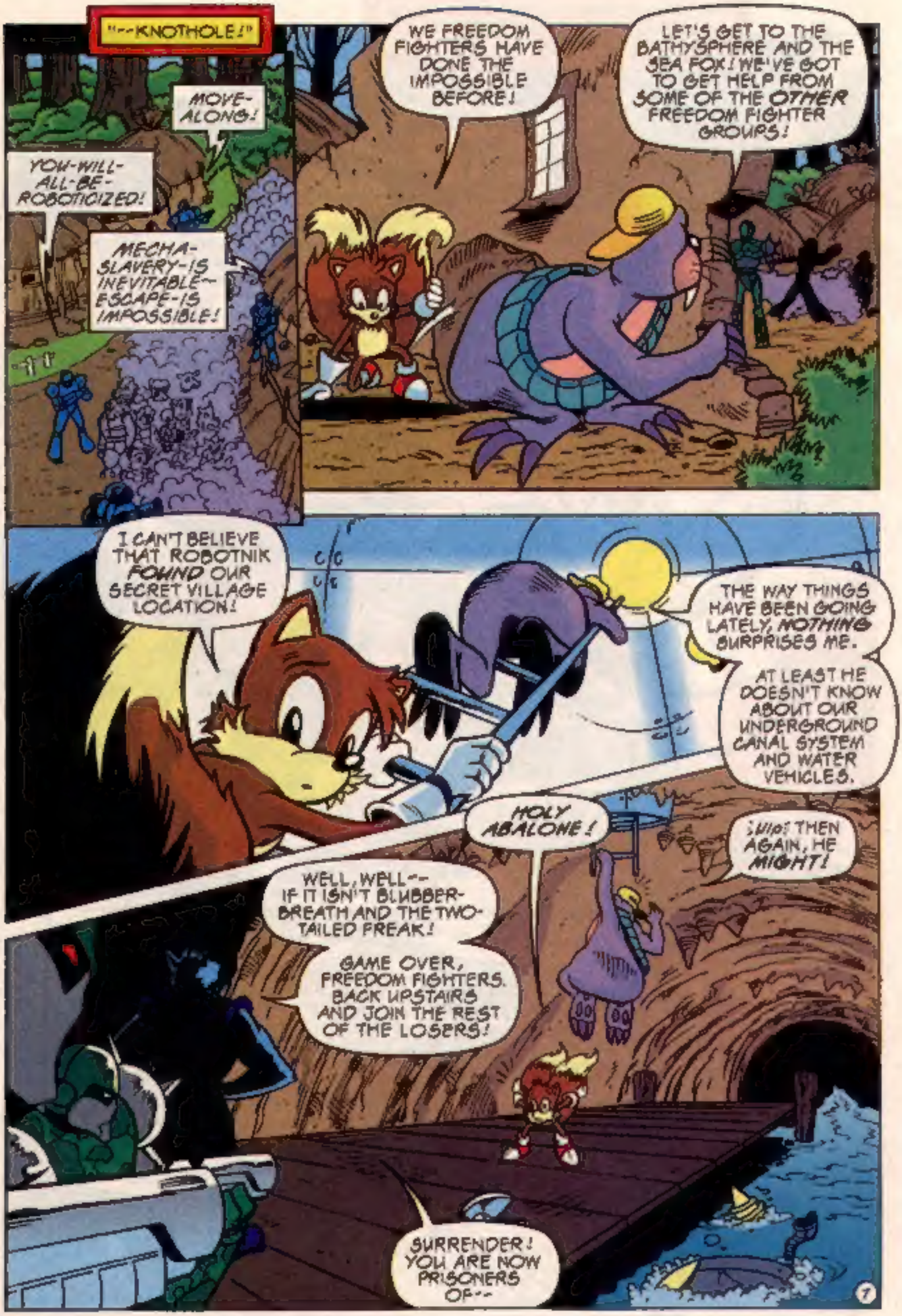
NO MATTER HOW FAST YOU ARE--I'LL ALWAYS BE FASTER!

SAYS YOU, LOUDMOUTH!
HEY--WHAT THE--?!

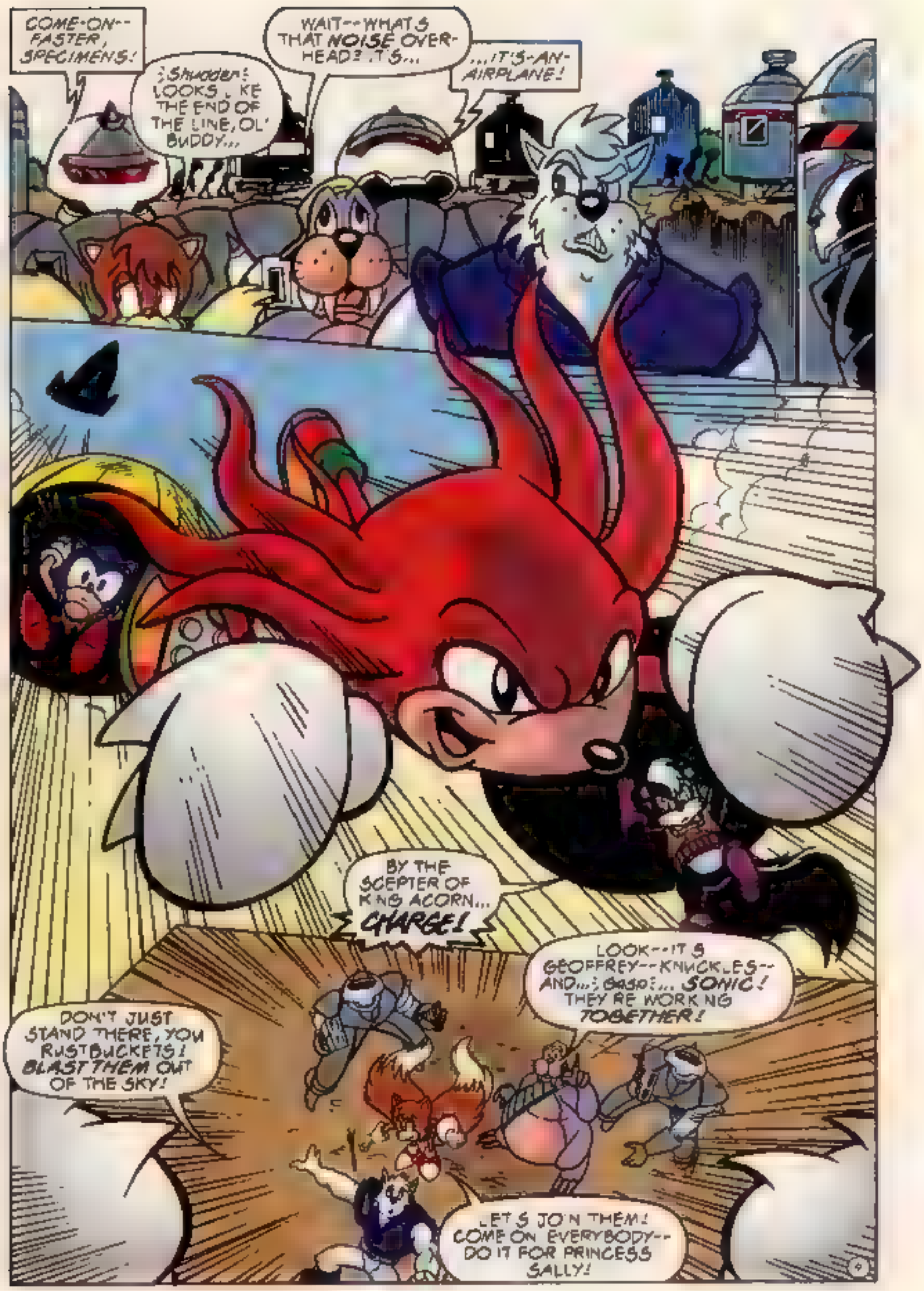
YOU CAN RUN, BUT I CAN HIDE!
Ummmf!! ESPIO THE CHAMELEON--ONE OF THE CHAOTIX!

BY ORDER OF KING ACORN--
STUFF THAT, PAL! I GIVE THE ORDERS ON THE FLOATING ISLAND!
THAT'S RIGHT! I ONLY LISTEN TO KNUCKLES!

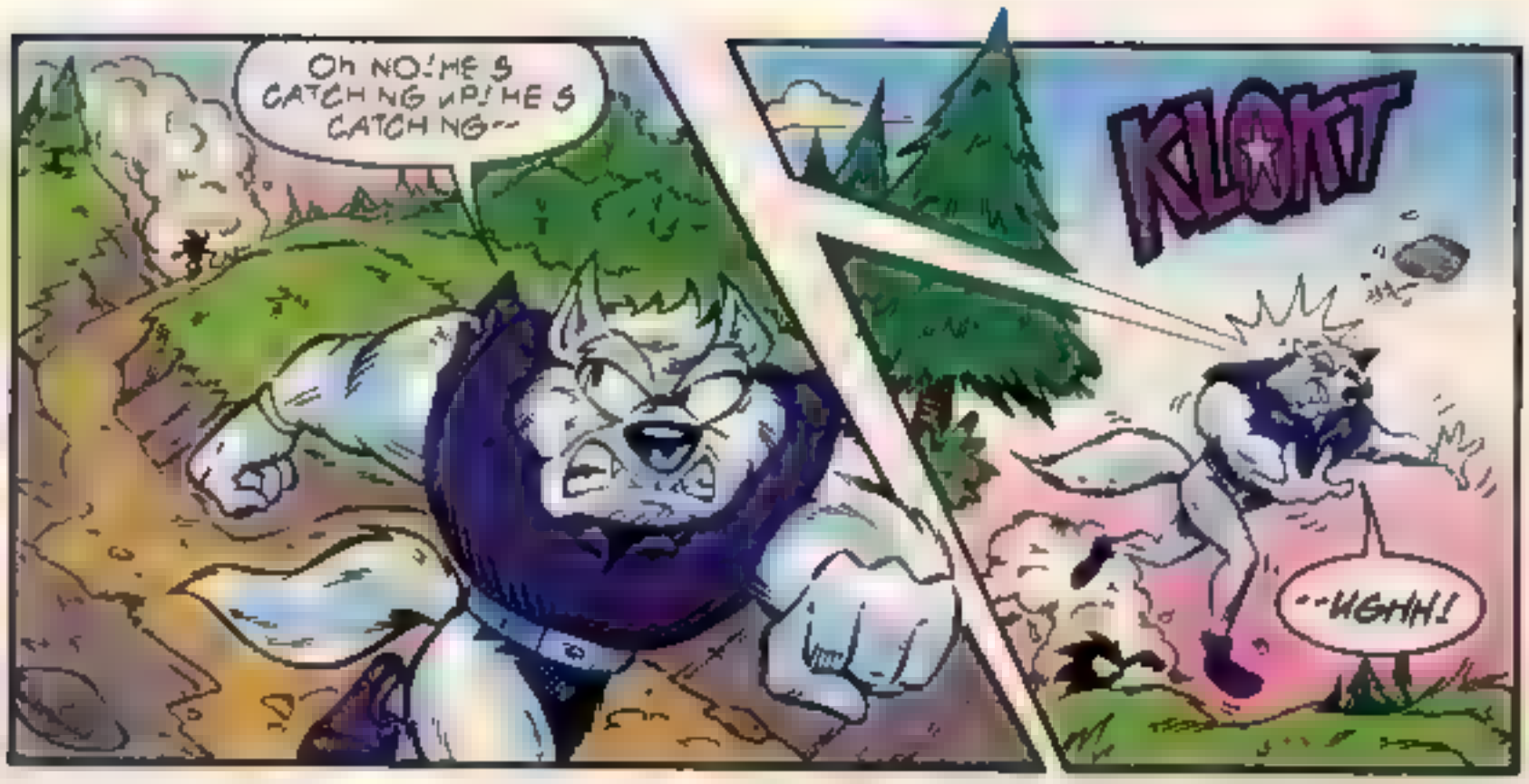
ENOUGH!!
CH-KOOOM
ALTHOUGH I HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO LISTEN TO A DRAGON EVERY NOW AND THEN...
DULCY! IN THE NICK OF TIME!
AS YOU KNOW, DRAGONS CANNOT TELL LIES. THAT IS WHY WE CAN SENSE THE PURITY OF TRUTH AND I KNOW SONIC IS NOT LYING ABOUT BEING FRAMED!
A DRAGON'S SPOKEN WORD IS FACT.
NOW WILL YOU LISTEN TO ME, ST. JOHN?!
OUR REAL ENEMY IS TRYING TO DIVIDE AND CONQUER US! INSTEAD, WE MUST TEAM UP! FLEMING, BRING YOUR PLANE INTO THIS CLEARING!
YES, SIR!
WHAT'S YOUR NEXT MOVE, KNUX?
OUT OF RESPECT FOR PRINCESS SALLY, I'M GOING ALONG TO HELP SONIC. I WANT YOU TO ASSEMBLE THE CHAOTIX AND GUARD THE ISLAND UNTIL I GET BACK...
I DON'T THINK I'LL FIT IN A PLANE, SONIC...
THAT'S OKAY, DULCE! YOU'VE DONE MORE THAN ENOUGH -- CHILL! WE'LL TAKE IT BACK TO--

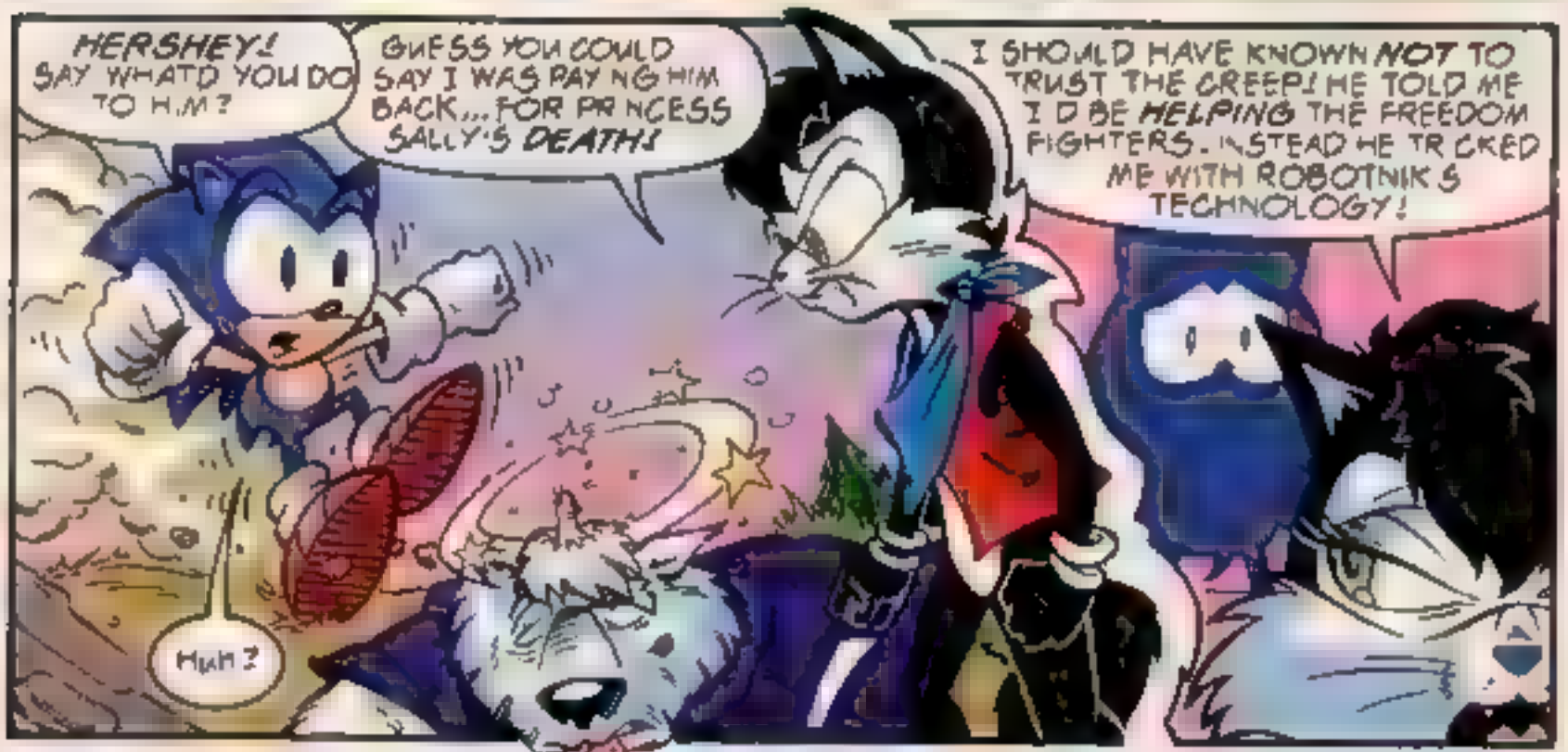

"--KNOTHOLE!"
MOVE-ALONG!
YOU-WILL-ALL-BE-ROBOTICIZED!
MECHA-SLAVERY-IS INEVITABLE--ESCAPE-IS IMPOSSIBLE!
WE FREEDOM FIGHTERS HAVE DONE THE IMPOSSIBLE BEFORE!
LET'S GET TO THE BATHYSPHERE AND THE SEA FOX! WE'VE GOT TO GET HELP FROM SOME OF THE OTHER FREEDOM FIGHTER GROUPS!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT ROBOTNIK FOUND OUR SECRET VILLAGE LOCATION!
THE WAY THINGS HAVE BEEN GOING LATELY, NOTHING SURPRISES ME.
AT LEAST HE DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT OUR UNDERGROUND CANAL SYSTEM AND WATER VEHICLES.
HOLY ABALONE!
SWIP! THEN AGAIN, HE MIGHT!
WELL, WELL-- IF IT ISN'T BLUBBER-BREATH AND THE TWO-TAILED FREAK!
GAME OVER, FREEDOM FIGHTERS. BACK UPSTAIRS AND JOIN THE REST OF THE LOSERS!
SURRENDER! YOU ARE NOW PRISONERS OF--

"IVO ROBOTNIK IN ROBOTROPOLIS CALLING CROCBOT'S CRATER IN DOWNUNDA..."
COME IN, CROCBOT!
WHAT?!
LOOK, I'M DEALING WITH AN UPRISING HERE AT THE PRISON CAMP! THE MINERAL ORE WE'VE MINED IS ALREADY ON ITS WAY TO YOU!
Ahhh... THAT'S ALL I WANTED TO KNOW--ROBOTNIK, OVER AND OUT!
HA! ONCE I GET THE ORE, MY ULTIMATE ANNIHILATOR WILL BE OPERATIONAL!
AT WHICH TIME, I WILL UNLEASH THE KA'S POWER ON THE VILLAGE OF KNOTHOLE, ERASING IT FROM EXISTENCE FOREVER!
I MUST RETURN TO MY SLUMBER CHAMBER BEFORE THE ORE ARRIVES. I WANT TO BE WELL RESTED FOR MY ULTIMATE VICTORY! HAHAHAHA!


COME-ON--FASTER, SPECIMENS!
;Shudder: LOOKS LIKE THE END OF THE LINE, OL' BUDDY...
WAIT--WHAT'S THAT NOISE OVERHEAD? IT'S...
...IT'S-AN-AIRPLANE!
BY THE SCEPTER OF KING ACORN... CHARGE!
LOOK--IT'S GEOFFREY--KNUCKLES--AND...;Gasp:... SONIC! THEY'RE WORKING TOGETHER!
DON'T JUST STAND THERE, YOU RUSTBUCKETS! BLAST THEM OUT OF THE SKY!
LET'S JOIN THEM! COME ON EVERYBODY--DO IT FOR PRINCESS SALLY!

FIGHT! FREEDOM! FIGHT! FREEDOM!
OKAY, WE'VE PLAYED AROUND ENOUGH! -- TIME TO GET DOWN TO BUSINESS!
FIGHT!
FREEDOM!
YOU!
WHO? ME?!
FIGHT!
FREEDOM!
FIGHT!
FREEDOM!
ZWEEEEEEEEE


OH NO! HE'S CATCHING UP! HE'S CATCHING--
KLOKT
--UGHH!

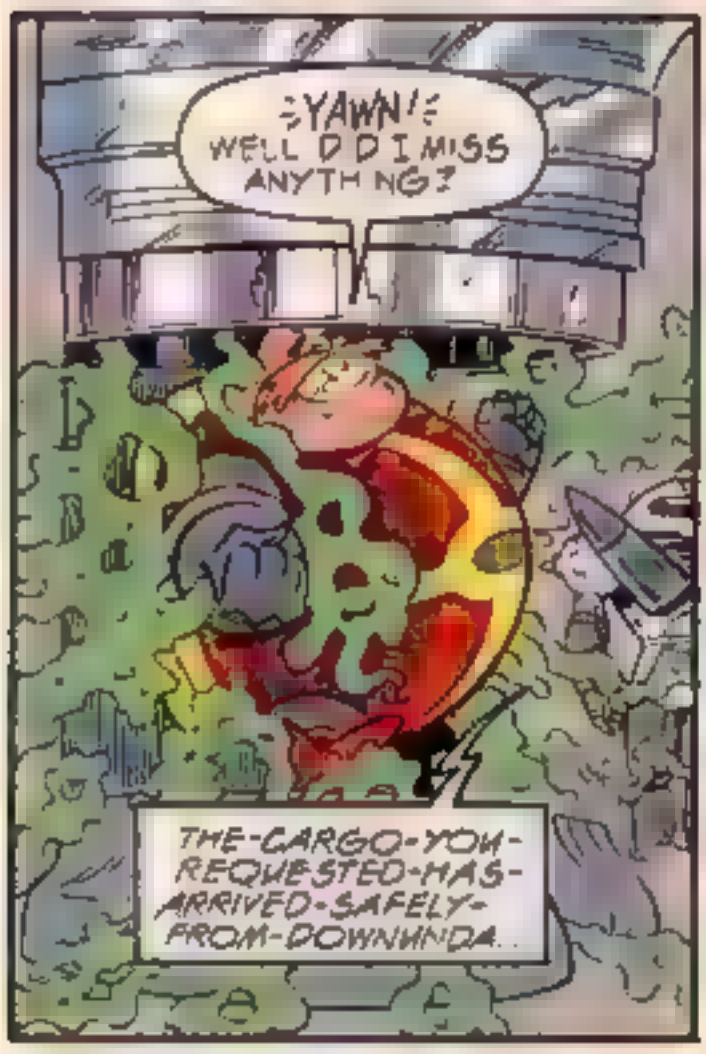

HERSHEY! SAY WHAT'D YOU DO TO HIM?
GUESS YOU COULD SAY I WAS PAYING HIM BACK... FOR PRINCESS SALLY'S DEATH!
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN NOT TO TRUST THE CREEP! HE TOLD ME I'D BE HELPING THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS. INSTEAD HE TRICKED ME WITH ROBOTNIK'S TECHNOLOGY!
HUH?

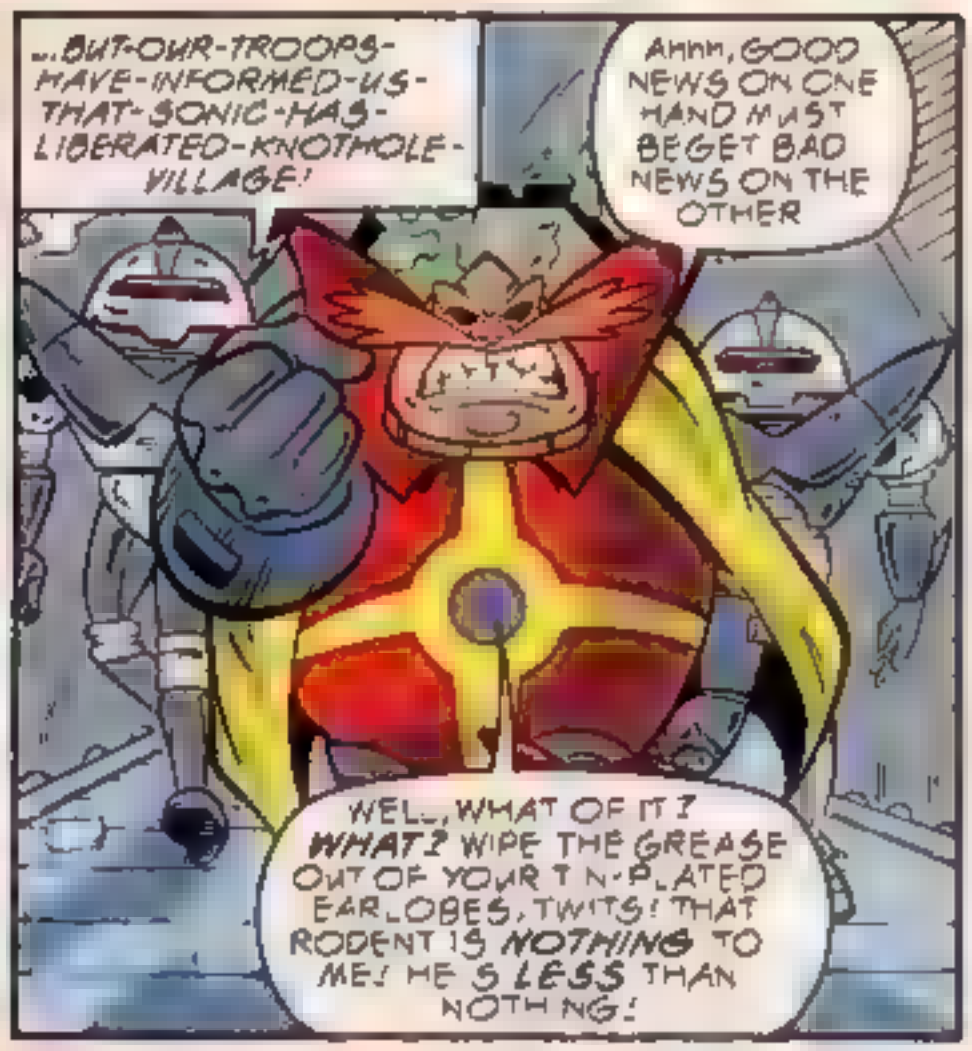
WHEN I CUT THAT ROPE, SONIC, I THOUGHT IT WAS SNIVELY WHO WAS HANGING...
...BUT IT WAS REALLY SALLY!

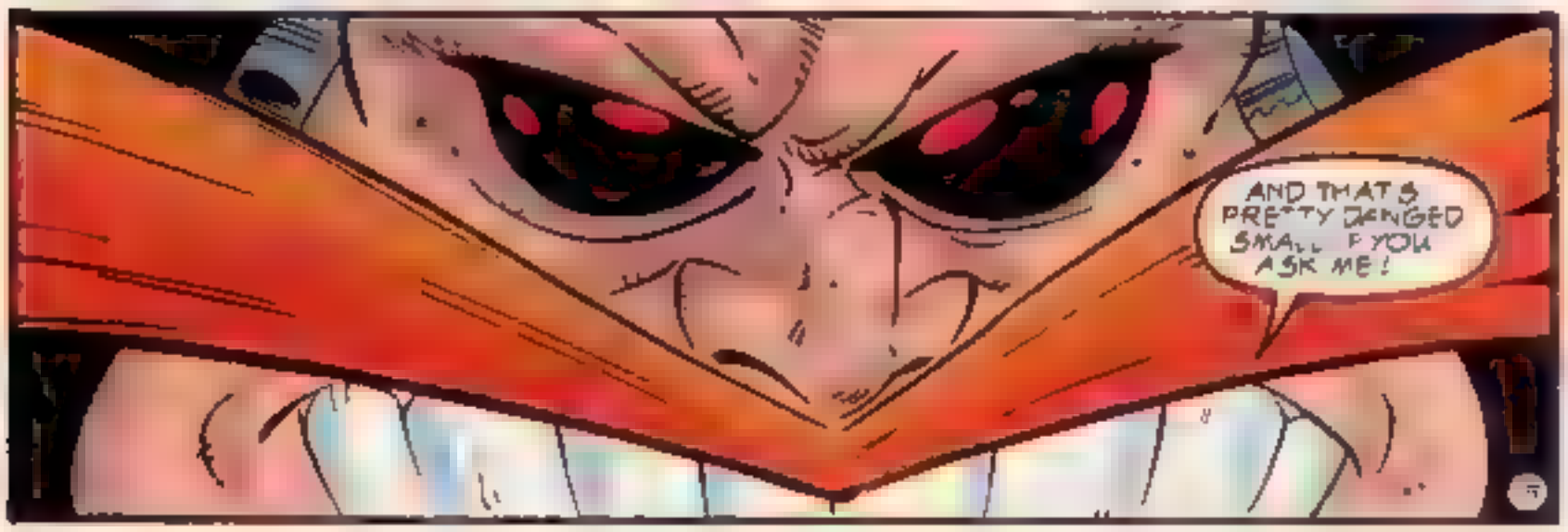
OH, SONIC! WHAT HAVE I DONE? EVERYTHING YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH!
YOU NEVER MIND THAT, HERSHEY...

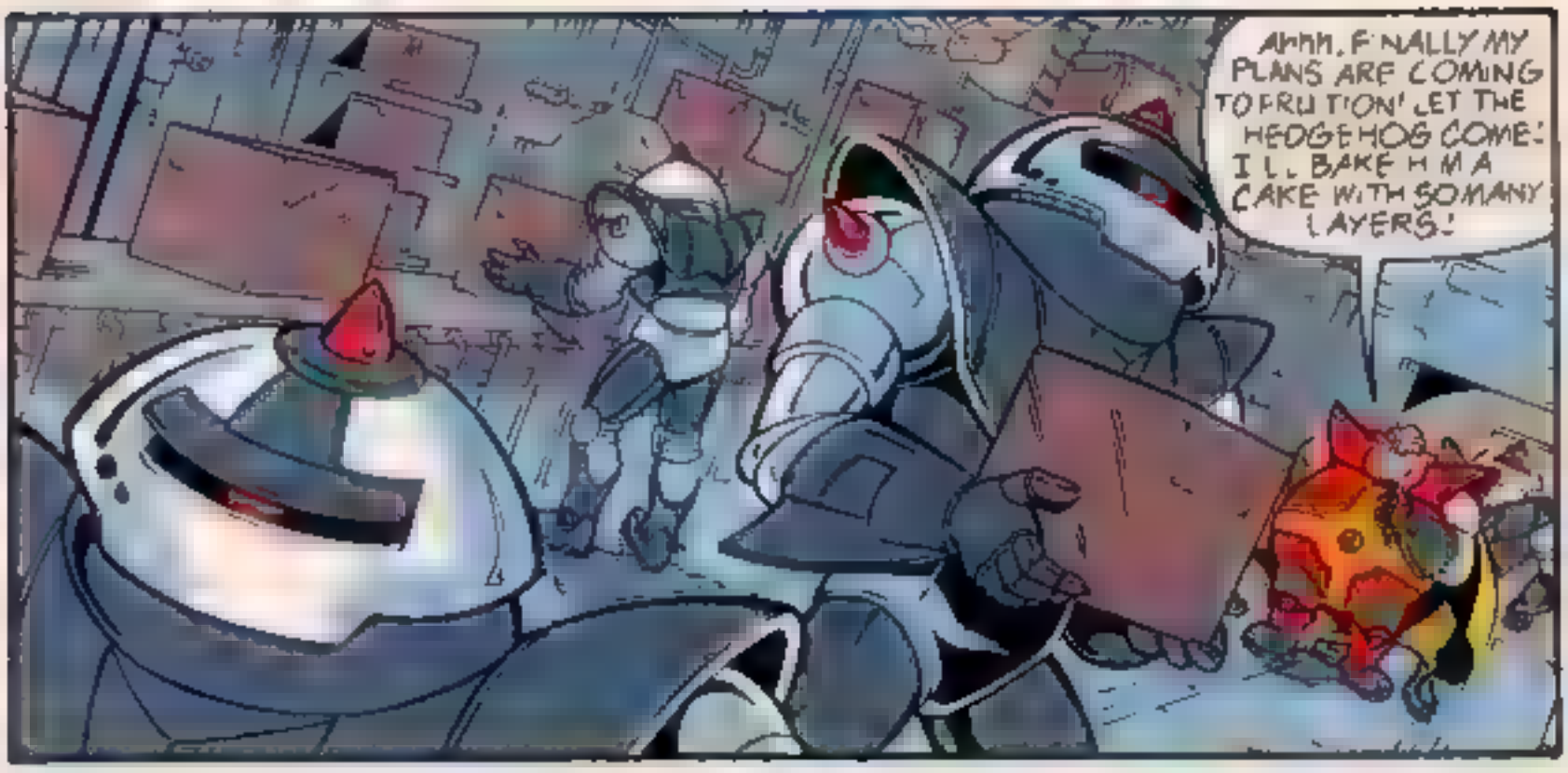
YOU WERE DUPED...

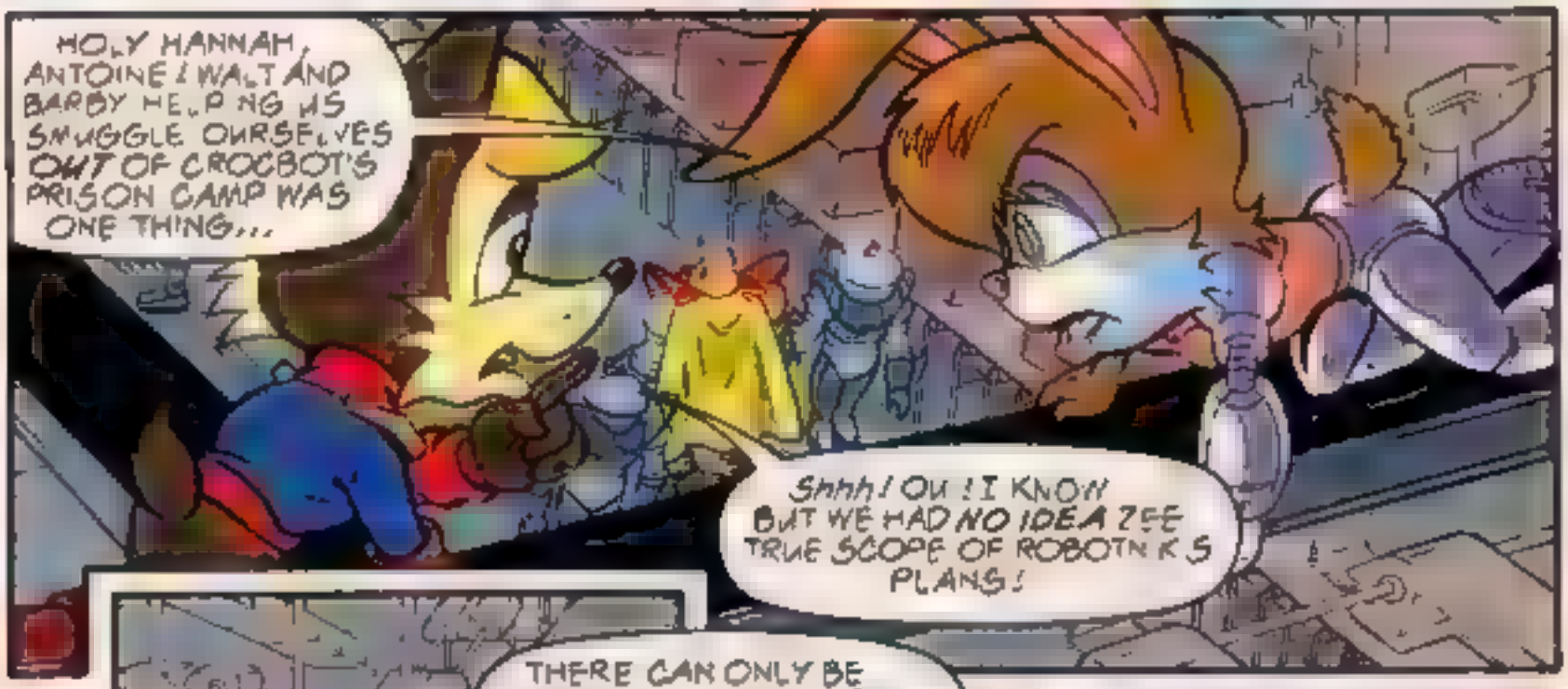
WE WERE ALL DUPED...

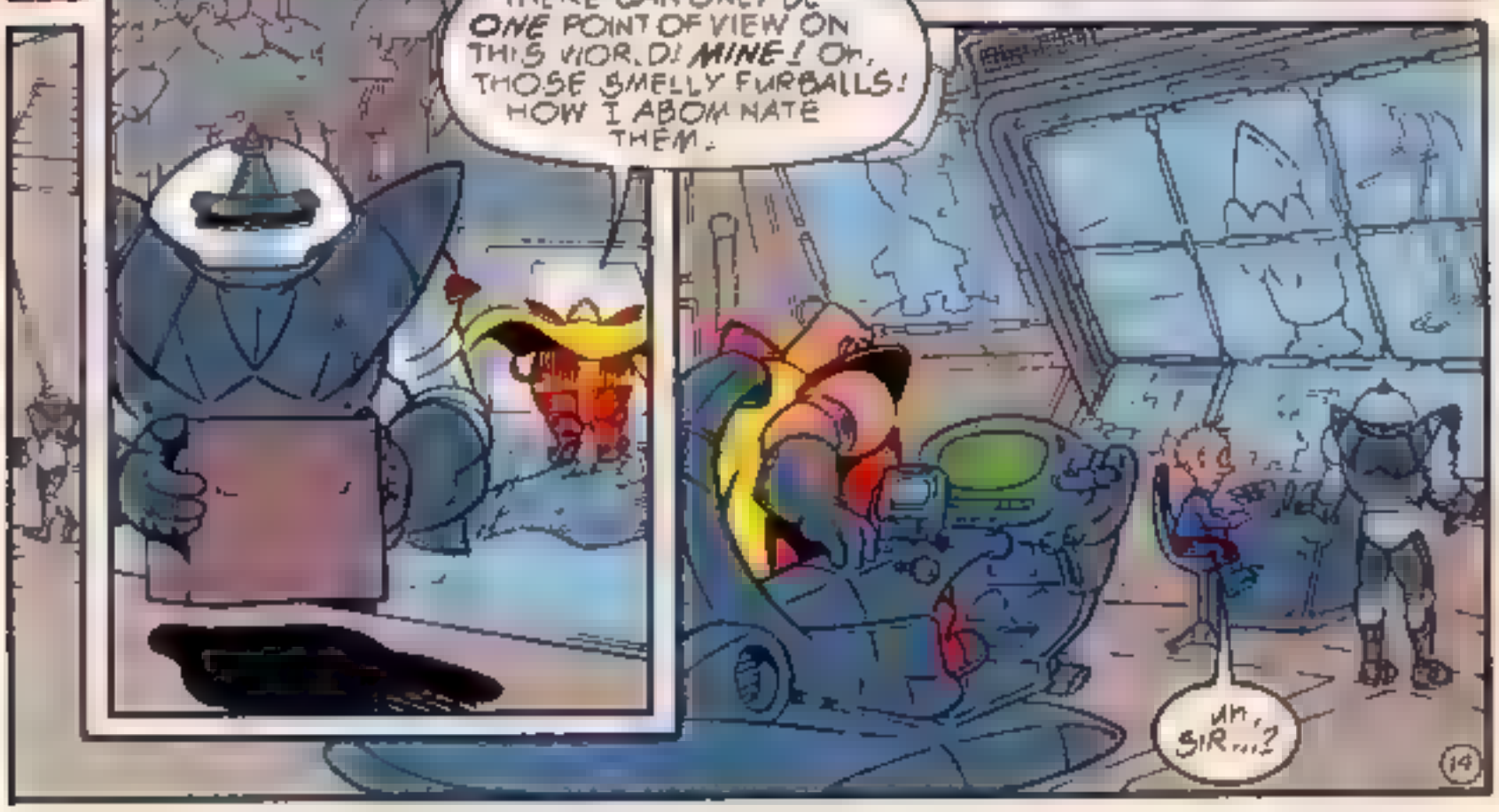


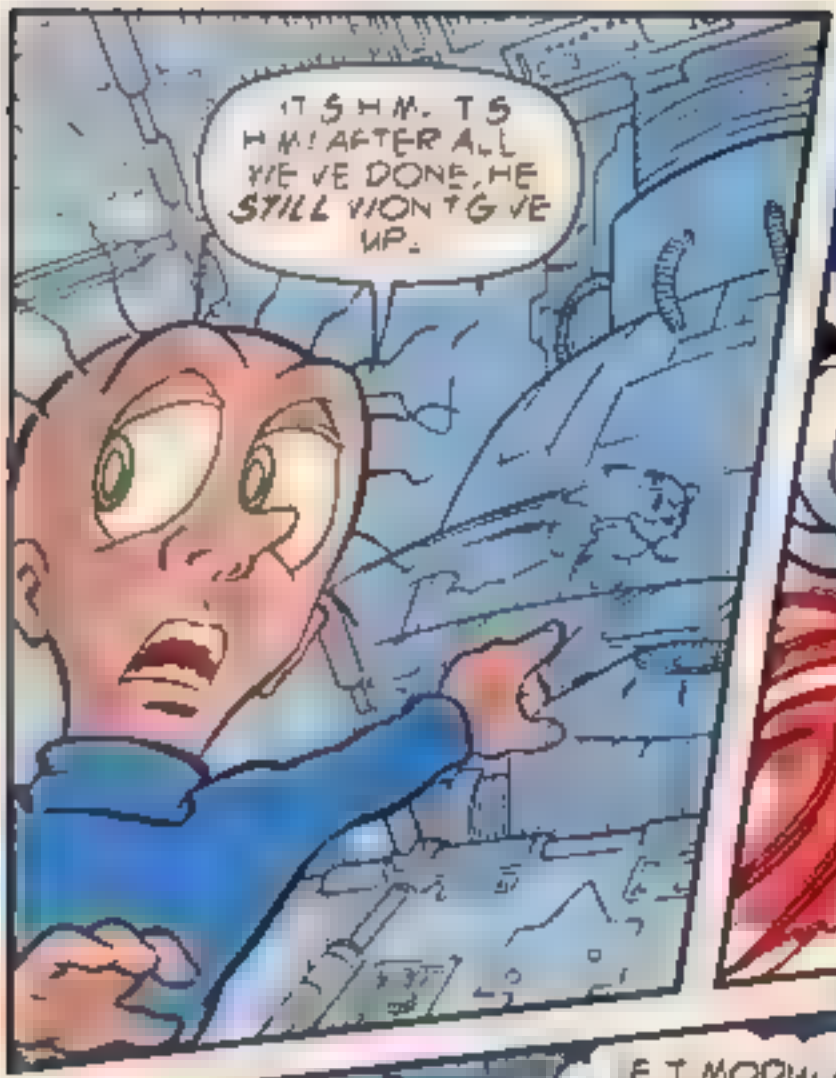


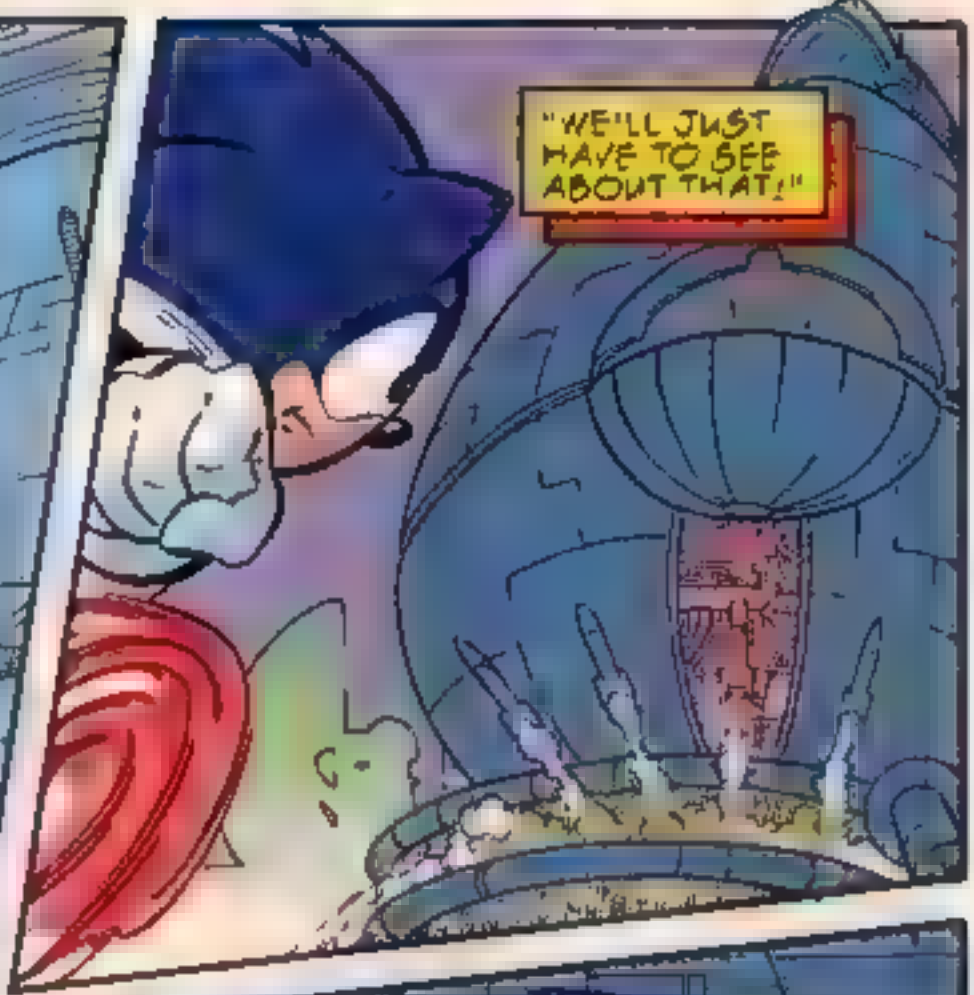


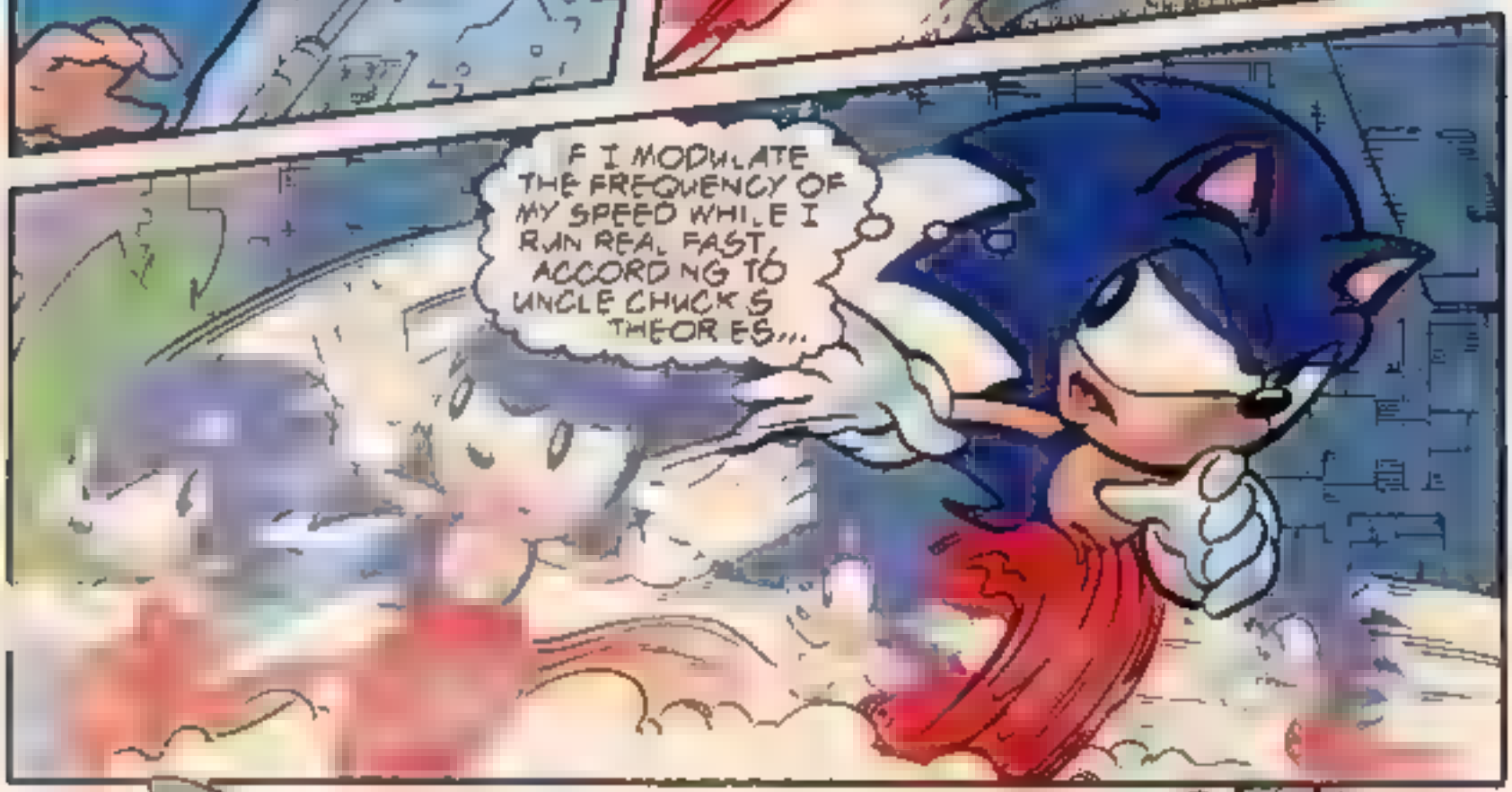

AHHH, FINALLY MY PLANS ARE COMING TO FRUITION! LET THE HEDGEHOG COME! I'LL BAKE HIM A CAKE WITH SO MANY LAYERS!

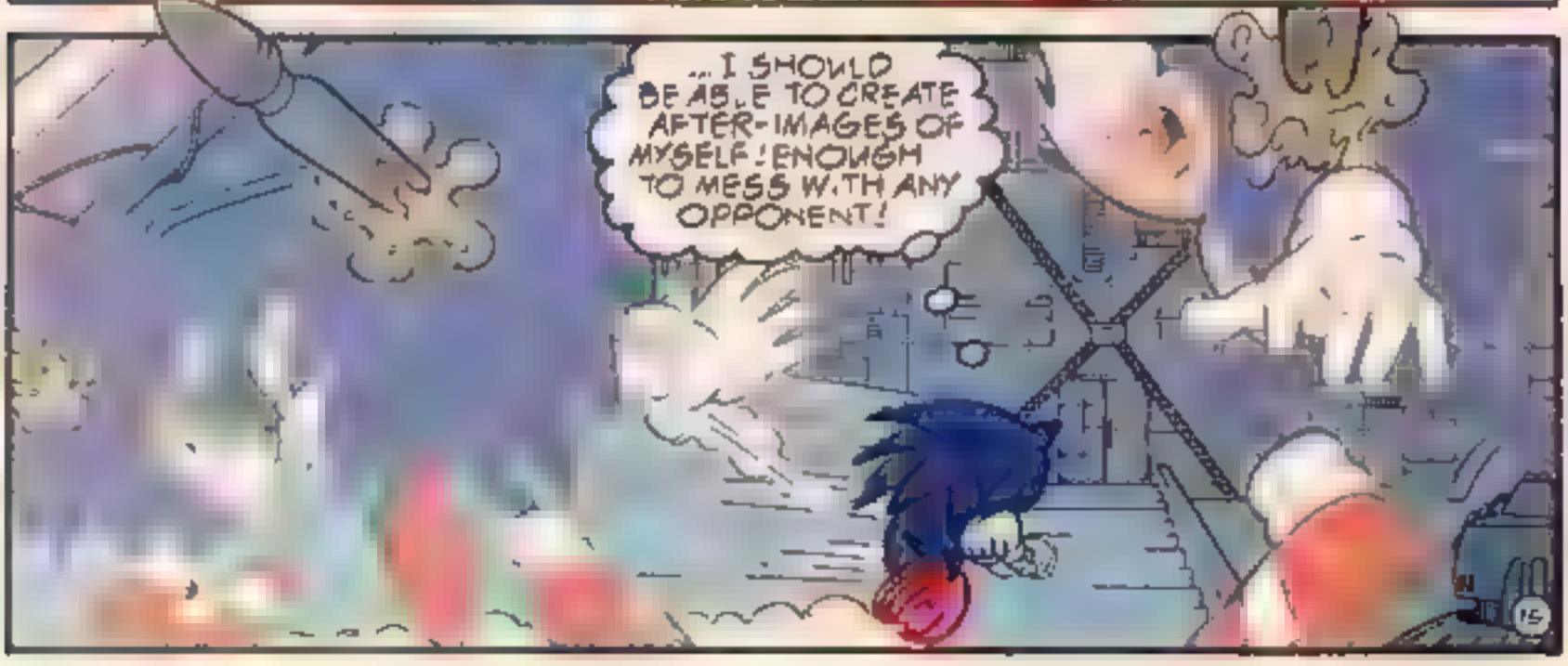

HOLY HANNAH, ANTOINE! WALT AND BARBY HELPING US SMUGGLE OURSELVES OUT OF CROCBOT'S PRISON CAMP WAS ONE THING...
Shhh! OUI! I KNOW BUT WE HAD NO IDEA ZEE TRUE SCOPE OF ROBOTNIK'S PLANS!


THERE CAN ONLY BE ONE POINT OF VIEW ON THIS WORLD! MINE! OH, THOSE SMELLY FURBALLS! HOW I ABOMINATE THEM.
UH, SIR...?


IT'S HM. IT'S HM! AFTER ALL WE'VE DONE, HE STILL WON'T GIVE UP.

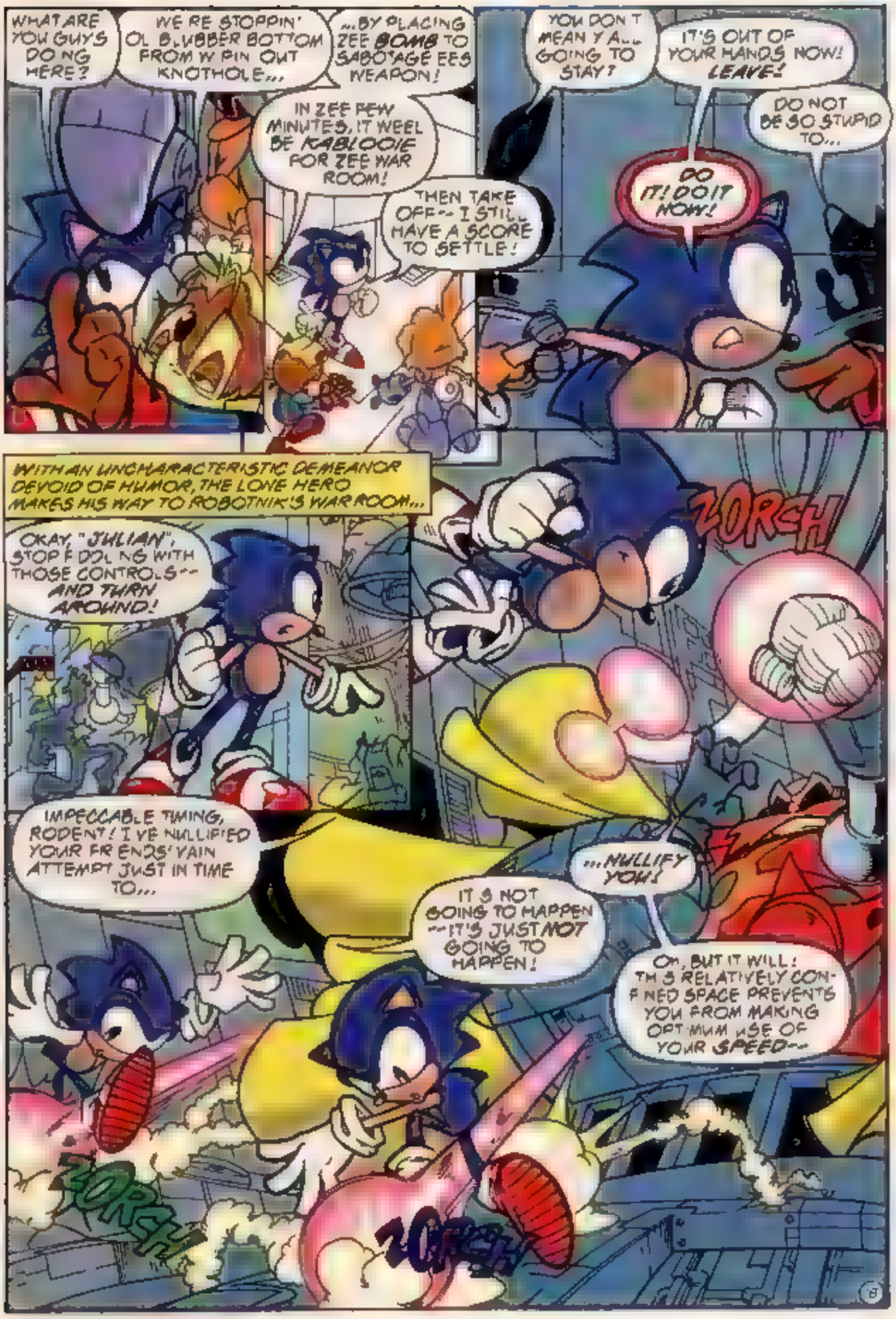

"WE'LL JUST HAVE TO SEE ABOUT THAT!"

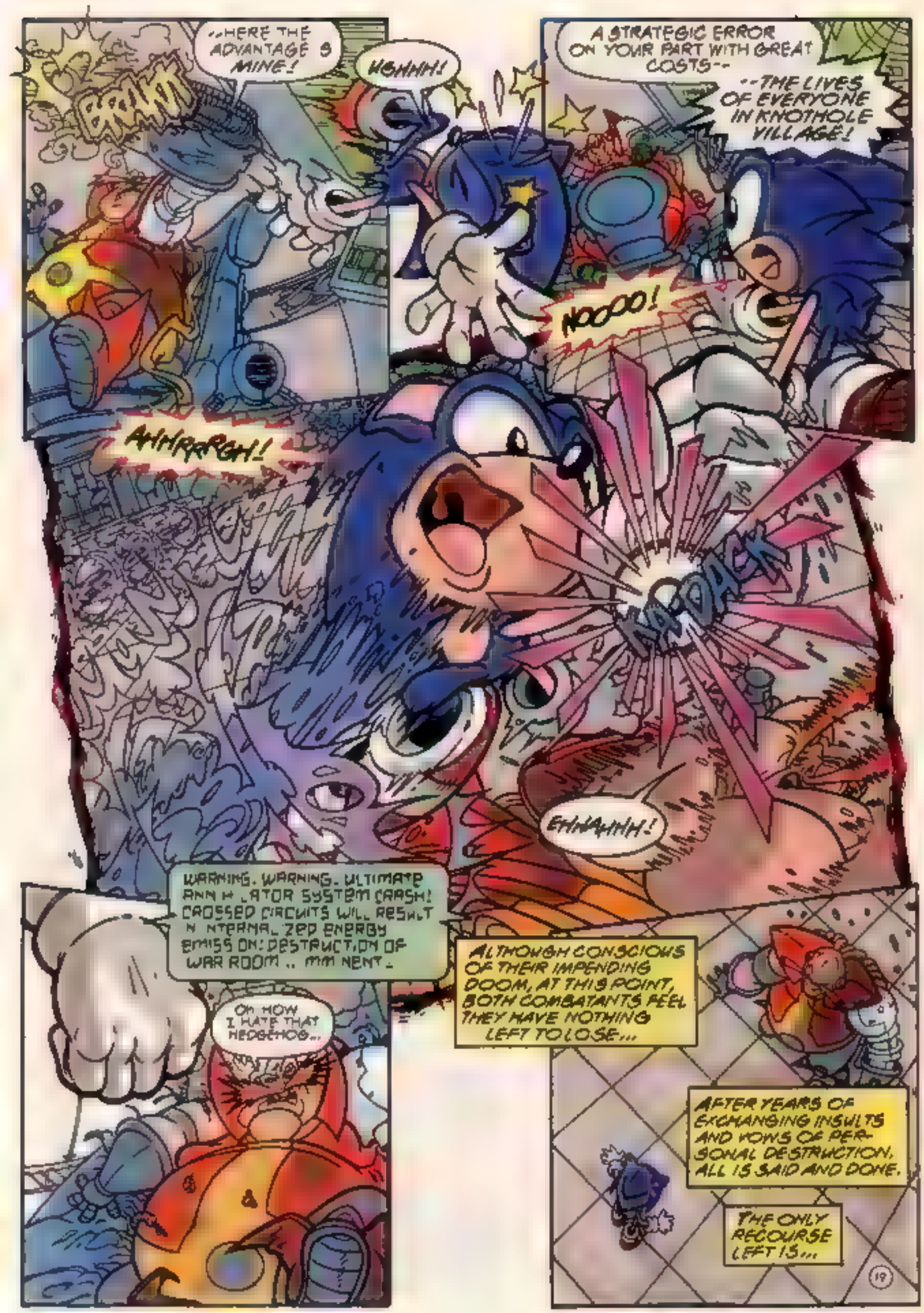

IF I MODULATE THE FREQUENCY OF MY SPEED WHILE I RUN REAL FAST, ACCORDING TO UNCLE CHUCK'S THEORIES...


...I SHOULD BE ABLE TO CREATE AFTER-IMAGES OF MYSELF! ENOUGH TO MESS WITH ANY OPPONENT!

BLANG
KA-BLONG
BLONG
KABOOCE
HEDGEHOG... IF THIS IS THE LAST THING I EVER DO, I'LL SEE YOU NEVER MAKE IT INSIDE!
YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT ONE THING, NEEDLE-NOSE...

...THIS IS THE LAST THING YOU'LL EVER DO!
WIZZ
WOZZ
FUZZ
OH...THE HEEL BONE'S CONNECTED TO THE CHEST BONE!
CRACK
OHH! OWW! YOU HURT MY STERNUM!
LOOKS LIKE MY SIDE KICK SENT ROBOTNIK'S SIDE-KICK RIGHT DOWN THE DRAIN!
AHH HOOO!
GOOD! NOW I CAN FOCUS MY ATTENTION ON... OOFF!
17


WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING HERE?
WE'RE STOPPIN' OL' BLUBBER BOTTOM FROM WIPIN' OUT KNOTHOLE...
...BY PLACING ZEE BOMB TO SABOTAGE EES WEAPON!
IN ZEE FEW MINUTES, IT WEEL BE KABLOOIE FOR ZEE WAR ROOM!
THEN TAKE OFF-- I STILL HAVE A SCORE TO SETTLE!
YOU DON'T MEAN Y'A... GOING TO STAY?
IT'S OUT OF YOUR HANDS NOW! LEAVE!
DO NOT BE SO STUPID TO...
DO IT! DO IT NOW!
WITH AN UNCHARACTERISTIC DEMEANOR DEVOID OF HUMOR, THE LONE HERO MAKES HIS WAY TO ROBOTNIK'S WAR ROOM...
OKAY, "JULIAN", STOP FIDDLING WITH THOSE CONTROLS-- AND TURN AROUND!
ZORCH
IMPECCABLE TIMING, RODENT! I'VE NULLIFIED YOUR FRIENDS' VAIN ATTEMPT JUST IN TIME TO...
...NULLIFY YOU!
IT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN --IT'S JUST NOT GOING TO HAPPEN!
OH, BUT IT WILL! THIS RELATIVELY CONFINED SPACE PREVENTS YOU FROM MAKING OPTIMUM USE OF YOUR SPEED--
ZORCH
ZORCH


--HERE THE ADVANTAGE IS MINE!
HOHHH!
A STRATEGIC ERROR ON YOUR PART WITH GREAT COSTS--
--THE LIVES OF EVERYONE IN KNOTHOLE VILLAGE!
NOOOO!
AHHRRGH!
KAPOWCK
EHHAHHH!
WARNING. WARNING. ULTIMATE ANNIHILATOR SYSTEM CRASH! CROSSED CIRCUITS WILL RESULT IN INTERNALIZED ENERGY EMISSION: DESTRUCTION OF WAR ROOM .. IMMINENT.
OH HOW I HATE THAT HEDGEHOG...
ALTHOUGH CONSCIOUS OF THEIR IMPENDING DOOM, AT THIS POINT, BOTH COMBATANTS FEEL THEY HAVE NOTHING LEFT TO LOSE...
AFTER YEARS OF EXCHANGING INSULTS AND VOWS OF PERSONAL DESTRUCTION, ALL IS SAID AND DONE.
THE ONLY RECOURSE LEFT IS...
19

BUZZ

WHOA!
I'M STILL HERE!
PART OF ME ANYWAY!
FEELS LIKE I'VE BEEN THROUGH THE WRINGER!
NOW I'M-- SO TIRED-- SO
--TIRED...
THERE HE IS!
SONIC WAS THE CLOSEST TO GROUND ZERO, SO HE PROBABLY NEEDS MEDICAL ATTENTION IMMEDIATELY!

WHE-- WHERE AM I?

ABOUT TIME YOU CAME TO YOUR SENSES!

YOU'RE IN THE MEDICAL FACILITY BACK IN KNOTHOLE!

OHMYGOSH! WHAT?

BUT I SAW KNOTHOLE GET DESTROYED!

EASY, LAD! EVERYTHING'S FINE!

KNOTHOLE WASN'T DESTROYED, SONIC!

HOWEVER, IT EXISTS IN A TEMPORAL RIFT THREE HOURS IN THE FUTURE... ALMOST LIKE A ZONE OF ITS OWN!

IN FACT, MANY ZONES WERE CREATED WHEN ROBOTNIK UNLEASHED HIS DEVICE!

YOU SAVED US ALL. I ONLY WISH I WAS AS BRAVE AS YOU!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN DOC? I NO COMPRENDE!

THIS WHOLE MESS CAME ABOUT BECAUSE OF ME.

WHA-AT?

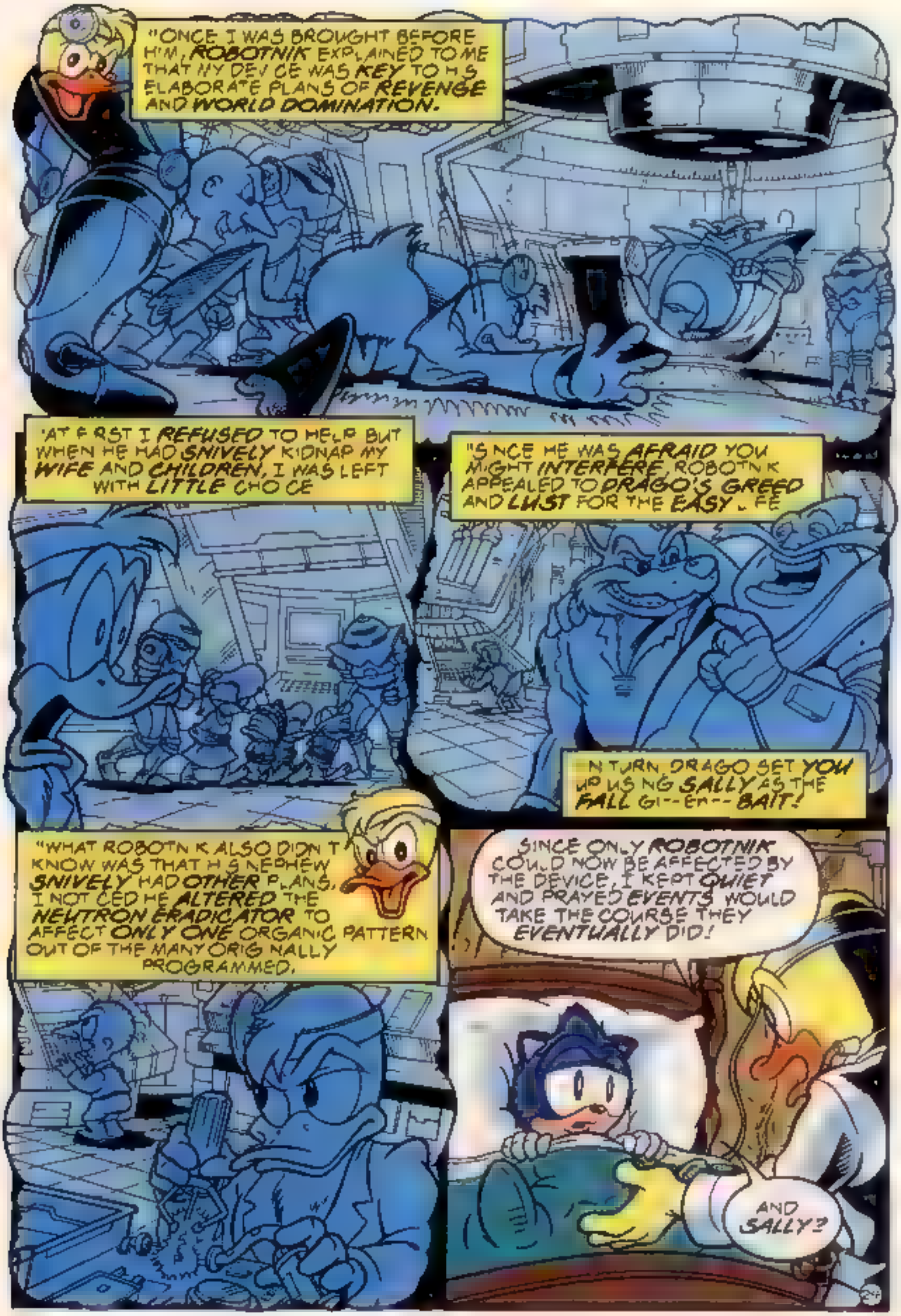
IT WASN'T INTENTIONAL, I ASSURE YOU!

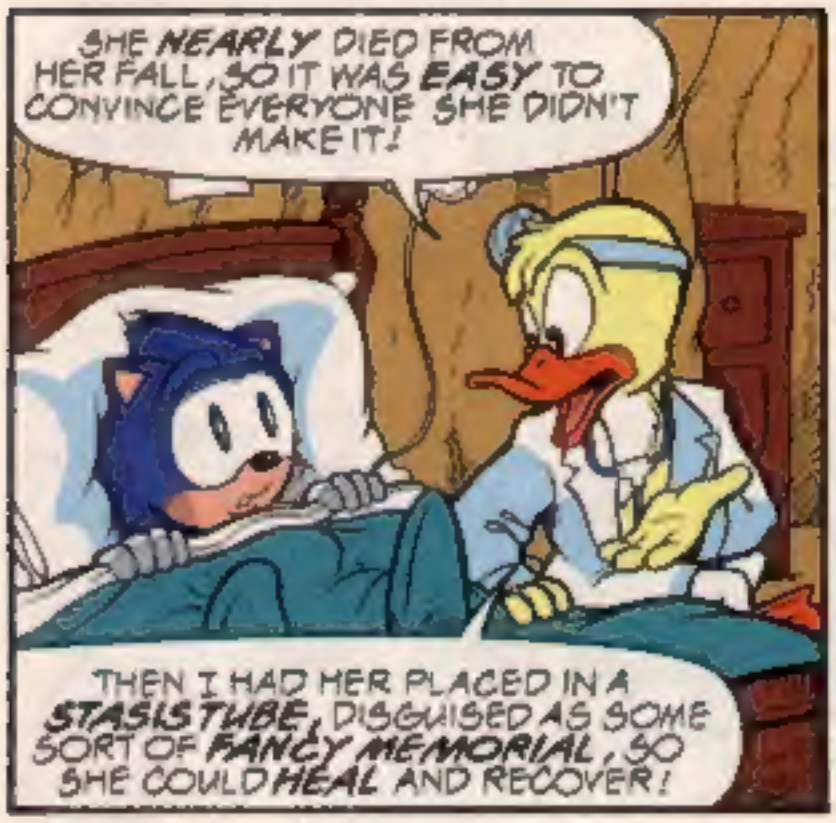
WHILE YOU WERE DETAINED RECOVERING THE KING'S SWORD,* ROBOTNIK SENT HIS STORM TROOPERS OUT TO GET ME AND THE KING WHO HE REPLACED WITH A ROBOT DUPLICATE!

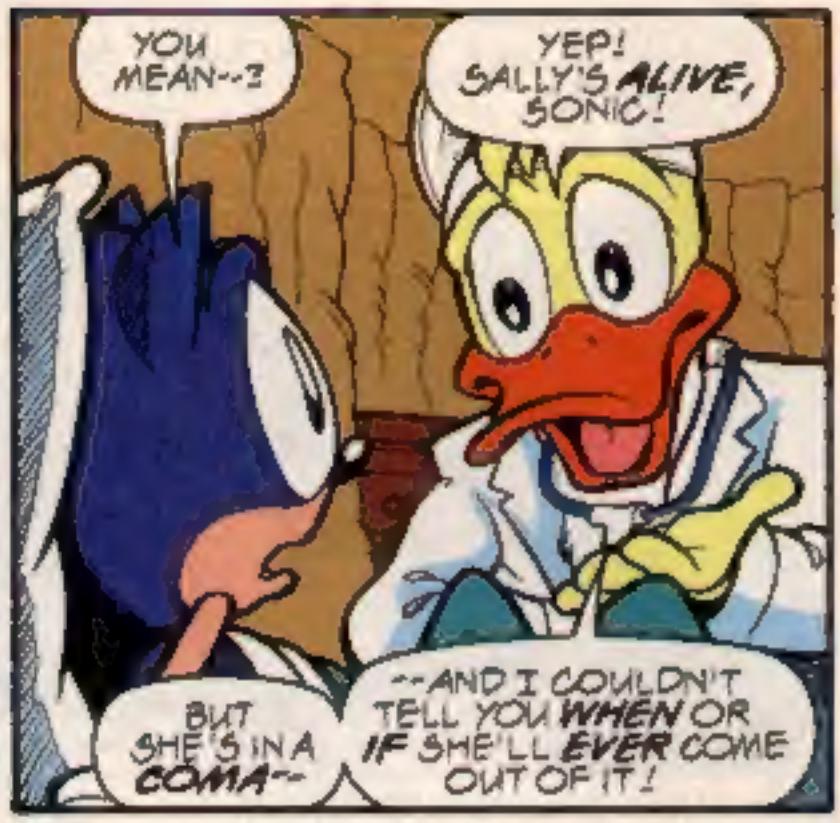
I'M NOT SURE I EVEN KNOW HOW TO EXPLAIN!

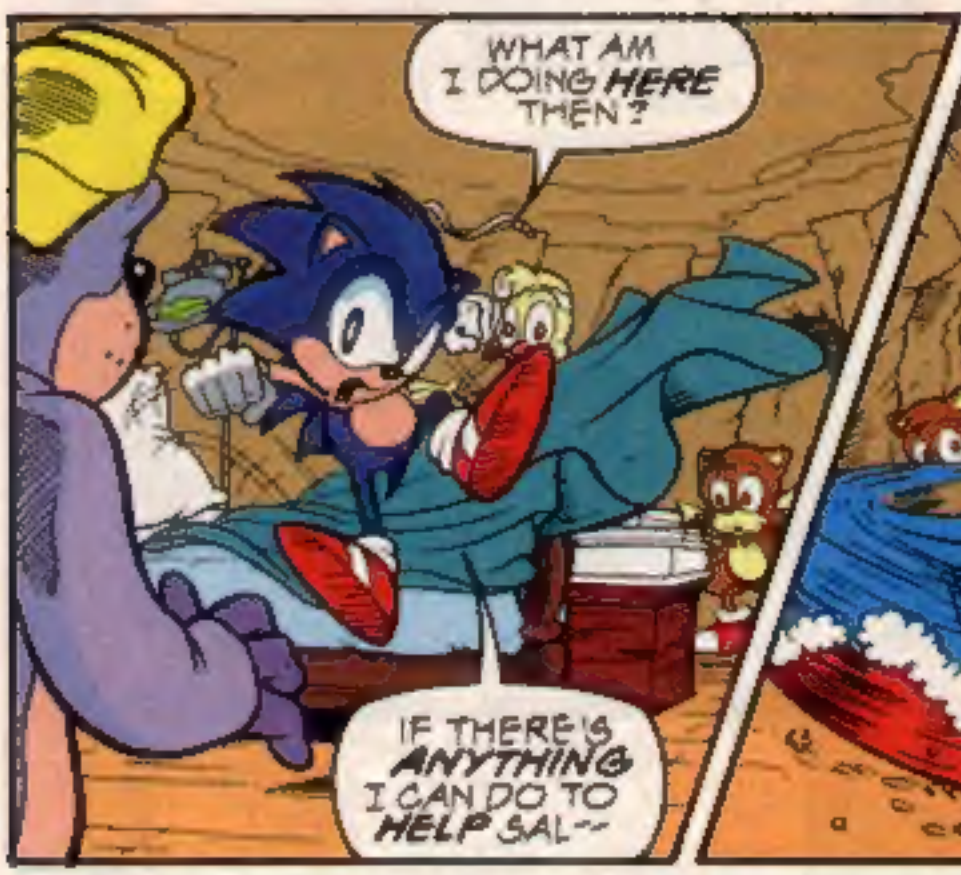
ROBOTNIK HAD DETECTED MY NEUTRON CHIP THE MAIN COMPONENT OF THE DREAM WATCHER. HE "TUNED IN", TRACKED THE LOCATION OF KNOTHOLE AND LEARNED OF KING ACORN'S RETURN FROM EXILE.**

*SONIC #43 -- JUSTIN
**SEE SONIC VS KNUCKLES BATTLE ROYAL #1 -- JEG


"ONCE I WAS BROUGHT BEFORE HIM, ROBOTNIK EXPLAINED TO ME THAT MY DEVICE WAS KEY TO HIS ELABORATE PLANS OF REVENGE AND WORLD DOMINATION.
AT FIRST I REFUSED TO HELP BUT WHEN HE HAD SNIVELY KIDNAP MY WIFE AND CHILDREN, I WAS LEFT WITH LITTLE CHOICE
"SINCE HE WAS AFRAID YOU MIGHT INTERFERE, ROBOTNIK APPEALED TO DRAGO'S GREED AND LUST FOR THE EASY LIFE
IN TURN, DRAGO SET YOU UP USING SALLY AS THE FALL GUY--EN--BAIT!
"WHAT ROBOTNIK ALSO DIDN'T KNOW WAS THAT HIS NEPHEW SNIVELY HAD OTHER PLANS. I NOTICED HE ALTERED THE NEUTRON ERADICATOR TO AFFECT ONLY ONE ORGANIC PATTERN OUT OF THE MANY ORIGINALLY PROGRAMMED.
SINCE ONLY ROBOTNIK COULD NOW BE AFFECTED BY THE DEVICE, I KEPT QUIET AND PRAYED EVENTS WOULD TAKE THE COURSE THEY EVENTUALLY DID!
AND SALLY?

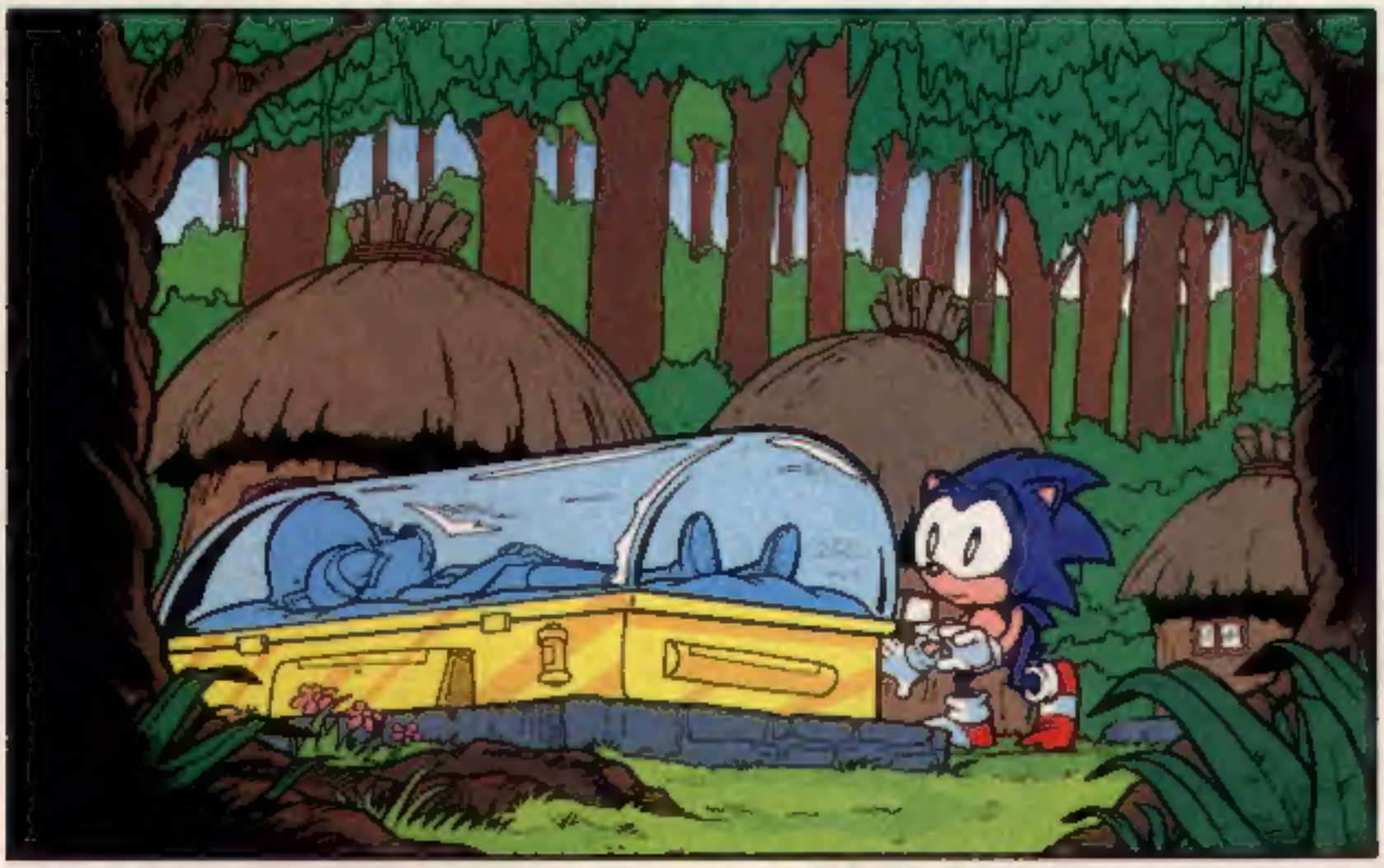

SHE NEARLY DIED FROM HER FALL, SO IT WAS EASY TO CONVINCE EVERYONE SHE DIDN'T MAKE IT!
THEN I HAD HER PLACED IN A STASIS TUBE, DISGUISED AS SOME SORT OF FANCY MEMORIAL, SO SHE COULD HEAL AND RECOVER!

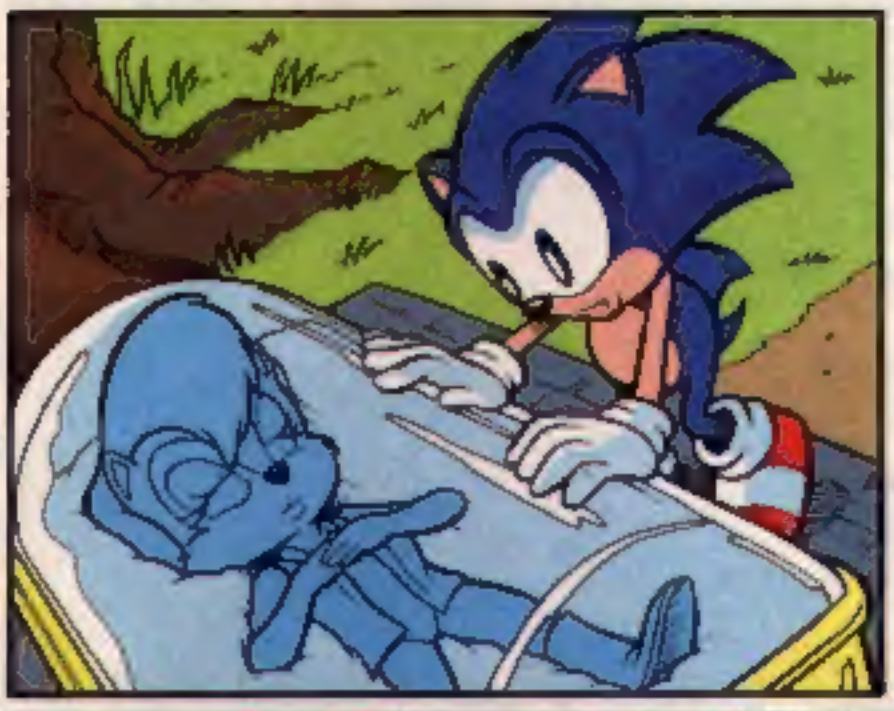

YOU MEAN--?
YEP! SALLY'S ALIVE, SONIC!
BUT SHE'S IN A COMA--
--AND I COULDN'T TELL YOU WHEN OR IF SHE'LL EVER COME OUT OF IT!

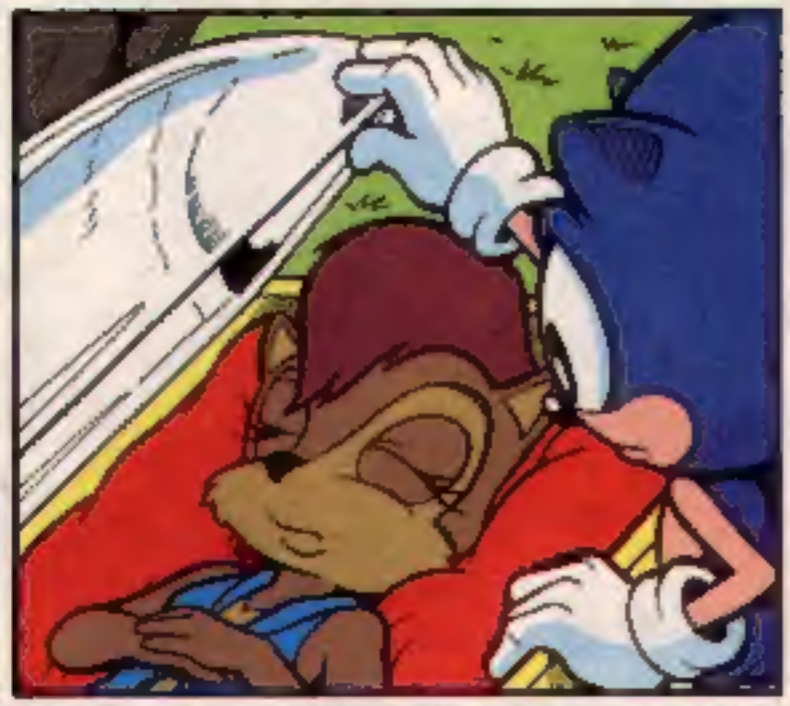

WHAT AM I DOING HERE THEN?
IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO TO HELP SAL--

--I'VE GOTTA DO IT NO MATTER WHAT!
HI, GUYS! MISSION OF MERCY! I'LL GET BACK TO YOU!

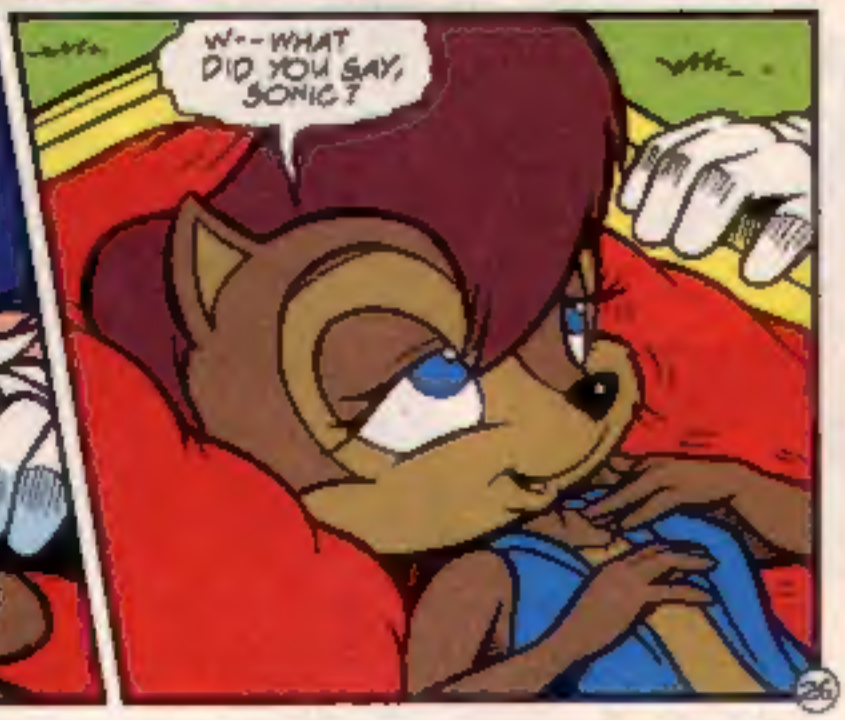
NOW WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?
DOESN'T HE KNOW EVERYTHING'S COOL?
EVERYTHING EXCEPT FOR SALLY, TAILS!
WHERE DO Y'ALL SUPPOSE HE'S RUNNIN' OFF TO?







I LOVE YOU, SALLY!
PLEASE COME BACK


W--WHAT DID YOU SAY, SONIC?

I SAID--
I'M JUST HAPPY TO SEE YOU AGAIN!
AND SO, IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE ORDER WAS RESTORED...
DOCTOR QUACK WAS EXONERATED DUE TO EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES, AND RESUMED LOOKING AFTER HIS PATIENT, KING ACORN.
MRS. QUACK AND THE CHILDREN ARE DOING FINE, THANK YOU.
HERSHEY WAS FORGIVEN FOR BEING DRAGO'S DUPE, SHE'S NOW A MODEL CITIZEN.
THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS WELCOMED BACK THEIR FRIEND SONIC WITH WIDE OPEN ARMS AND BEGAN PLANNING A BIG CELEBRATION.
GEOFFREY ST. JOHN WAS REINSTATED AS COMMANDER OF HIS MAJESTY'S SECRET SERVICE. HE AWAITS HIS NEXT MISSION.
AS FOR SNIVELY-- WELL, THAT'S ANOTHER STORY FOR ANOTHER DAY!
DRAGO WAS SENTENCED TO THE DEVIL'S GULAG. SOMETHING ABOUT A COLD DAY IN A WARM PLACE WAS MENTIONED AS TO HOW LONG HIS SENTENCE WOULD RUN.

SONIC-GRAMS

WELCOME ONE AND ALL TO OUR TOTALLY AWESOME FIFTIETH ISSUE CELEBRATION!

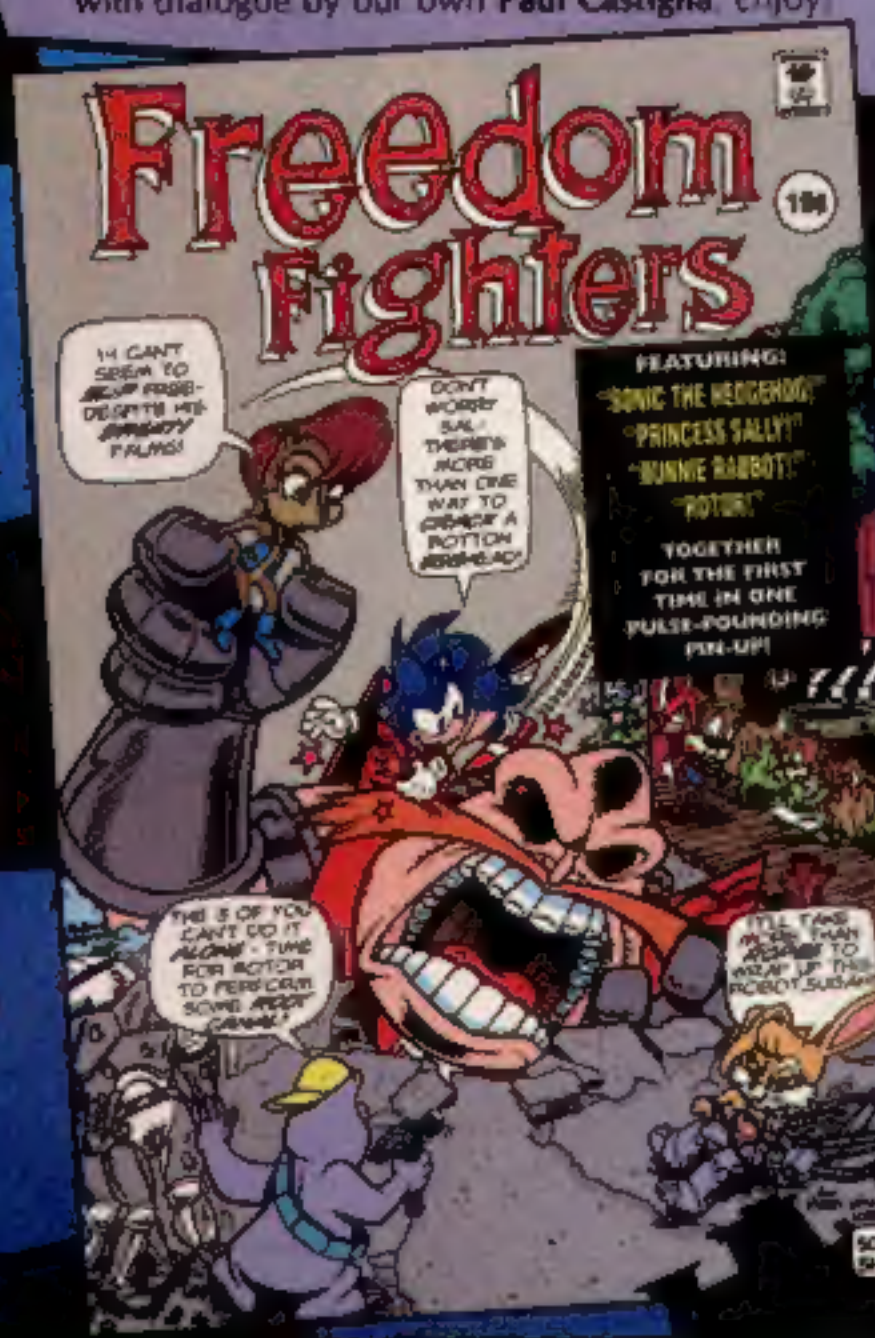
Sonic The Hedgehog has been running for twenty-five issues since his last celebration (and he thought the first twenty-five were tough) and here we are looking to see Sonic run fifty more. I think he's hedgehog enough to do it! Don't you?

Guiding the adventures of our favorite blue hedgehog has been as exciting as a runaway rollar coaster ride!!! Hopefully, it's been just as much fun for you to read it as it was for us to create it. Speaking of which, I'd like to thank all the Sonic writers and artists who have participated in creating the last fifty issues. I'd also like to thank our contacts Susan Suarez and Cynthia Wilkes at Sega of America and Helen Ball at Strategy Licensing. Special thanks goes to our intern Maina Guglielmo for all her help.

Sonic and all The Freedom Fighters would like to dedicate this issue to **you** and **all of Sonic fandom** for your support! None of this could have been done without it!

P.S.:Look for Sonic writer/artist Ken Penders at the San Diego Comic Con, July 17-20!

As part of the "festivities," below is a pin-up by Sonic's first comic book artist, **Scott Shaw!** with dialogue by our own **Paul Castiglia**. Enjoy!



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Brought to you with pride by

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KEN PENDERS

Script:
KEN PENDERS (pgs. 1-3, 22-27)
MICHAEL GALLAGHER (pgs. 4-9)
KARL BOLLERS (pgs. 10-15)
KENT TAYLOR (pgs. 16-21)

Pencils:
PATRICK SPAZIANTE (pgs. 1-3, 19-21, 27)
MANNY GALAN (pgs. 4-6)
NELSON ORTEGA (pgs. 7-9)
SAM MATHELI (pgs 10-11, 16-18)
DAVE MANAK (pgs. 12-13)
KEN PENDERS (pgs. 14-15)
ART MANNHONEY (pgs. 22-26)

Inks:
ANDREW PEPOY (pgs. 1-6)
BRIAN THOMAS (pgs. 7-9)
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HARVEY MERCADOOCASIO (pgs. 16-21)
JIM AMASH (pgs. 23-24)
RICH KOSLOWSKI (pgs. 22, 25-26)
KEN PENDERS (pg. 27)

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